U.S.F.W.S. Fishery Leaflet #336 #336

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

October-December 1962

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

OCT 16 1962
FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Cold-storage holdings of edible fishery products Sept. 1, '62 = 182.7 mil. lbs.; Sept. 1, '61 = 181.4 mil. lbs.; Sept. 1, '60 = 196.8 mil. lbs. Inventories of blocks, fresh-water fish, halibut, ocean perch and pollock fillets, oysters, scallops, spiny lobsters, and whiting were higher on Sept. 1, '62 than a year earlier. Holdings of most other major species were lower than last year.

Total domestic catch for first 7 months of '62 was 5% less than that during the similar period in '61. Decline largely result of sharp drop in menhaden landings.

Imports Jan.-July '62 continued higher than in same period last year for most species. However, receipts of groundfish fillets, frozen salmon, canned sardines, canned bonito and yellowtail, canned oysters, and tuna canned in oil were less than those in Jan.-July '61. Continued high receipts expected for most species in last quarter.

Exports Jan.-July '62 improved over same period '61. Larger for canned mackerel, canned sardines, frozen and canned salmon, and canned squid. Improved trend expected to continue in this quarter.

Fish meal and scrap production during first 8 months '62 = 207,175 tons; same period '61 = 223,500 tons. Marine animal oil yield was 22.3 mil. gals. during Jan.-Aug. '62; 26.1 mil. gals. in Jan.-Aug. '61.

Wholesale price index for edible fishery products in August '62 at 121.6% of the '57-'59 base was up 10.1% from August '61.

Canned Maine Sardine pack at end of August '62 about 3 times greater than same period '61, with prices about 10% lower. Maine sardines will be listed on Plentiful Foods and Food Stamp Plan for November by Department of Agriculture.

FISH 'N' SEAFOOD PARADE ----- OCTOBER 1 - 31

Salt-water Fish

FISH STICKS & PORTIONS --------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Fish stick prod. first 6 mos. '62 = 16.1 mil. lbs., 3% higher than '61. Fish portion prod. same period = 18.2 mil. lbs., up 47%. Combined holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 8.3 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '61 = 8.5 mil. lbs. Continued increased production this quarter.

FLOUNDER & SOLE FILLETS -----

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Production expected to be good this quarter. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 4.3 mil. lbs., 18% below '61. Imports Jan.-July '62 = 10.8 mil. lbs., Jan.-July '61 = 9.6 mil. lbs. Practically all flounder imports from Canada.

COD FILLETS ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Cod landings will decrease this quarter. Imports thru July '62 = 19.6 mil. lbs., Jan.-July '61 = 21.2 mil. lbs. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 7.7 mil. lbs. compared with 7.9 mil. lbs. year earlier. Prices steady this quarter.

HADDOCK FILLETS ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Seasonal production decrease in fall and winter. Imports 7 mos. '62 = 15.3 mil. lbs., Jan.-July '61 = 17.8 mil. lbs. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 8.1 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '61 = 10.9 mil. lbs. Prices firm.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS ---------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings ocean perch light next few months. Imports thru July '62 = 7.8 mil. lbs., thru July '61 = 6.6 mil. lbs. Continued high imports expected this quarter. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 11.3 mil. lbs., about 5% higher than year earlier. Prices which have increased recently should remain firm.

HALIBUT ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Record halibut catch possible for '62 depending on weather. Thru August, production = 68.4 mil. lbs. Record was 71.9 mil. lbs. in '60. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 22.1 mil. lbs.; last year = 22.7 mil. lbs. Prices continue high and will remain firm during this quarter.

MACKEREL, CANNED ----------

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Improving

Pack of Pacific and Jack mackerel thru Aug. '62 = 518,200 std. cases, 5% higher than same period '61. Exports Jan.-July '62 = 3.0 mil. lbs.; Jan.-July '61 = 2.0 mil. lbs. Ample supplies to meet marketing demand. Prices will remain steady.

SALMON, CANNED ----------

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Alaska pack thru Sept. 23, '62 = 3.4 mil. std. cases. Total '61 pack = 3.3 mil. std. cases. Pinks up almost 40%, cohos and chums also up. Reds down 42%. Imports Jan.-July '62 = 6.3 mil. lbs.; same period '61 = 3.1 mil. lbs. Exports thru July '62 = 4.4 mil. lbs.; Jan.-July '61 = 4.2 mil. lbs.

SARDINES, CALIFORNIA ---------

Market - Firm
Supplies - Very light
Demand - Active

Very light pack expected during this quarter. New season opened on Sept. 1, but no fishing because of price disputes. Exports Jan.-July '62 = 4.0 mil. lbs.; Jan.-July '61 = 3.8 mil. lbs. Prices very firm.

SARDINES, MAINE

Market - Unsettled
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Pack thru Sept. 22, '62 = 1.8 mil. std. cases compared with 478,000 std. cases on same date in '61. Large promotional effort to move sardines into distribution channels. Prices which were high as result of poor pack '61 have weakened and could drop further this quarter.

TUNA, CANNED

Market - Dull
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Moderate

Calif. pack thru Sept. 15, '62 = 8.4 mil. std. cases, 0.3 mil. cases above same period '61. Frozen imports thru July '62 = 171.7 mil. lbs., 39% more than Jan.-July '61. Prices about steady. Calif. landings will probably decline this quarter.

Shellfish

CRAB MEAT

Market - Active
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Seasonal production decline begins latter part of this quarter. Canned crab meat imports thru July '62 = 1.6 mil. lbs.; Jan.-July '61 = 1.5 mil. lbs., practically all from Japan. Dungeness crab season disappointing on Pacific Coast, prices were very high but are dropping. Prices hard crabs will probably increase slightly.

LOBSTERS

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Maine landings Jan.-June '62 = 3.8 mil. lbs., same period '61 = 4.3 mil. lbs. Seasonal production decline this quarter. Imports from Canada thru July '62 = 17.2 mil. lbs.; Jan.-July '61 = 15.8 mil. lbs. Holdings spiny lobsters Sept. 1, '62 = 7.9 mil. lbs. compared with 5.8 mil. lbs. same date '61. Prices steady this quarter.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Firm
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Production in '62 slightly below '61. Value higher. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 2.8 mil. lbs., Sept. 1, '61 = 2.4 mil. lbs. Imports thru July '62 = 7.2 mil. lbs.; Jan.-July '61 = 4.7 mil. lbs., practically all from Canada. Prices rather firm next few months.

SHRIMP

Market - Firm
Supplies - Light
Demand - Good

Late summer production of shrimp disappointing. Thru Aug. '62, landings about 3% below same period '61. Holdings Sept. 1, '62 = 18.5, about 9% below '61. Canned inventories also low, prices high. Imports Jan.-July '62 = 72.3 mil. lbs., about 13% above year earlier. Prices all shrimp continue high this quarter.

Industrial Products

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Production thru Aug. '62 = 207,175 tons, same period '61 = 223,500 tons. Imports Jan.-July '62 = 166,700 tons; thru July '61 = 126,500 tons. Prices should remain steady at present levels. Continued high imports.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial production was unchanged in August at 119% of the 1957 average. Output of consumer durable goods declined, but activity in business equipment industries increased slightly.

Construction - The value of new construction activity in August '62, at seasonally adjusted annual rate of $62.2 billion, was unchanged from July and slightly below the record level reached in June.

Employment in nonfarm establishments declined slightly in August. Layoffs at automobile plants accounted for one-half the reduction in manufacturing employment. The unemployment rate rose to 5.8% in August from 5.3% in July.

Retail sales at department stores declined during August but advanced at most other types of outlets selling nondurable goods.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Meat - Production of red meat in '62 will probably total 28.9 billion pounds, about 1% above '61. Per capita meat consumption about 161 pounds. By late fall, beef prices might average a little below year earlier. Pork supplies during next quarter probably less than last year same period; prices higher. Lamb and mutton supplies lower with prices well above the low levels of '61.

Poultry and Eggs - For '62 as a whole, per capita consumption of chicken is expected to be 3% lower than '61, but use in this quarter will probably be close to level same period last year. Per capita consumption of turkey in '62 is expected to be down 4% from '61 total of 7.5 pounds. Egg production for '62 not likely to keep up with population increase. Consumers expected to use about 4 eggs less per capita than the 325 used in '61. Prices will probably increase through early fall months.

Dairy Products - Milk output in '62 expected to be between 126-127 billion pounds. Per capita consumption of fluid milk, cream, and butter during '62 probably will be below '61, while that of cheese should rise.

Fats and Oils - Indications point to new record large supplies of edible fats, oils, and oilseeds in the U. S. during marketing year beginning Oct. 1, '62. Total expected about 16.8 billion pounds (oil equivalent); 6% more than '61-'62 peak.

Vegetables - Supplies of processed vegetables are slightly heavier than a year ago with all major items in ample supply. Retail prices should continue near current levels during the next few months.

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